

IMCZNEWS



MARCH 2012



EDITORIAL Spring Tidings

After three weeks of sub zero temperatures, where everything froze and the pace of life slowed down to a crawl, we wake up to hear the birds singing again after a long absence, better still the warming rays of our life giving star find their way through thick layers of cold air saturated with fog to inject life into the frozen countryside.

The drum beating carnival makers, trying to beat the winter away, have made it. Spring is here again and the annual cycle of life is in full swing. In many countries March the 21 is a public holiday to celebrate the coming of spring. Here in this country, we are blessed with unparalleled, most exquisite and beautiful nature virtually at our doorsteps. Let each one of us take a few hours off to observe and wonder the beauty all around us. It is time for reflection and inspiration. One more issue, if you would like to see the rhododendrons in full blossom right in the middle of myriads of flowers and trees, mixed with the most pleasant scents and aromas, make a note in your diary for Saturday May 19 when we are organising a conducted tour of the famous Seleger Moor, only five miles away. Bring along your spouses, children and friends, they shall all have the time of their lives there.

Muthana Kubba
Newsletter Editor
secretary@imcz.com

FUTURE EVENTS

- **THURSDAY MARCH 15, Joint Stammtisch with ZIWC.**
Presentation by Jojo Ellensohn, on African children projects.
- **WEDNESDAY MARCH 21, Bowling,**
Center White Line, Meierskappel
- **THURSDAY APRIL 5, Trip to Altdorf.** *Presentation by Thomas and Dennis Aschwanden on Canton of Uri.*
- **WEDNESDAY APRIL 18, Bowling,** *Center White Line, Meierskappel*
- **SUNDAY APRIL 22, Expat Expo,** *Lorzensaal, Cham.*
Both IMCZ and ZIWC shall be present with their stands.
- **SATURDAY APRIL 28, visit to William Tell Museum** *in Altdorf, Swiss path hike*
- **TUESDAY MAY 1, 25m Pistol shooting event** *Choller shooting stand contact Dr. Max Leyherr*
- **THURSDAY MAY 3, New Members' Reception,** *Park Hotel, Zug.*
Presentation by Urs Raschle, director of Zug tourism.
- **TUESDAY MAY 8, 25m Pistol shooting event** *Choller shooting stand contact Dr. Max Leyherr*
- **TUESDAY MAY 15, 25m Pistol shooting event** *Choller shooting stand contact Dr. Max Leyherr*
- **WEDNESDAY MAY 16, Bowling,** *Center White Line, Meierskappel*
- **SATURDAY MAY 19, Visit to Seleger Moor,** *Rifferswil.*
See the Rhododendrens in full blossom 14:00 hours at the entrance
- **TUESDAY MAY 22, 25m Pistol shooting event** *Choller shooting stand contact Dr. Max Leyherr*
- **WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, Bowling,** *Center White Line, Meierskappel*
- **SUNDAY AUGUST 26, Annual summer barbecue** *at Siehbachsaal, Zug. This year's theme: USA*
- **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6, Ian Scarr-Hall** *presentation on the Highlights of Amhuinnsuidhe Castle in the Isle of Harris, Scotland*

IMCZ

Introducing...new members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Jean-Pierre Lamaudiere

Jean-Pierre hails from France and is a naturalised Swiss. He has been living in Switzerland for almost 20 years. He is a professional civil engineer and holds a PhD in soil mechanics as well as an MBA. His professional career spans more than 10 years work with SGI in Geneva both as a project manager and later as partner. His work took him to sojourns in London, Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Africa. He left SGI and started his own business in the same field eight years ago. Having lived all the time in Nyon, he has recently moved here living in Goldau and having his business in Zug.

His interests include tennis, skiing, golfing, trekking and Krav Maga (self defence). He is also a fan of steam railways and actively participates in restoring old steam engines on the Furka Railway. As a Frenchman he likes sampling food from different cuisines as well as wine tasting.

Andrew Wood

We got to know Andrew at last year's joint Stammtisch, and are glad to welcome him finally at our club. Andrew hails from Great Britain and likes to golf, play squash and snowboard in the winter.

The Club would love to know more about new members and any elaboration shall be welcome.

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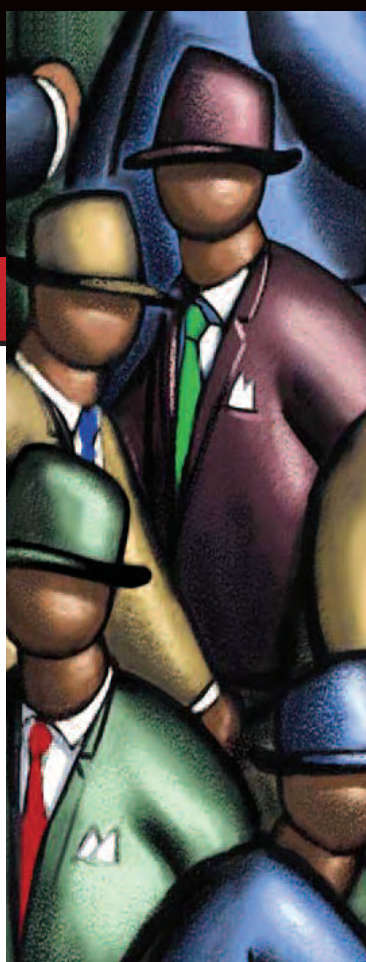
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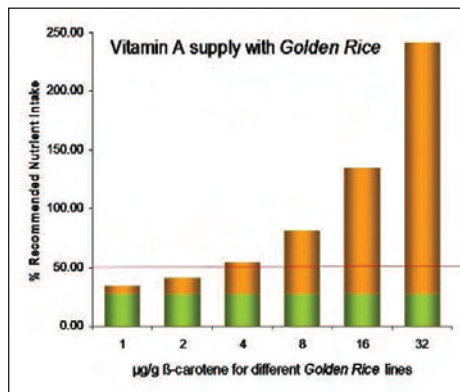
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Genetically modified organisms in our food

Contributed by IMCZ member Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen, Head R&D Sponser Sports Food Ing. Appl Food Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

Public hysteria has always existed among humans and we will never be cured of it. The fear of the unknown is deeply anchored in our minds. Examples are fears of nuclear- and nano technologies as well as of genetically modified food. Nowadays, virtually no food produced with the help of genetic modification organisms (GMO) is marketed in Europe because of the widespread fear and resistance of consumers. The most irrational and cynical example is the rejection by African governments of the so-called "golden rice", a rice enriched in beta_carotene (a precursor of vitamin A) by means of GMO technology. This rice could save millions of children in Africa from blindness caused by vitamin A deficiency!



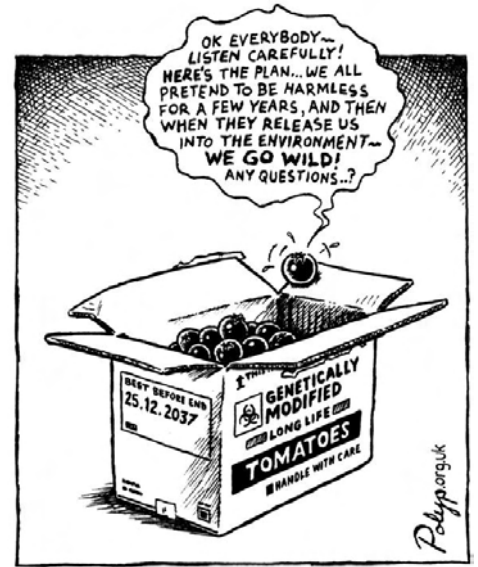
What the actual average consumer fears is the foreign RNA and DNA (ribonucleic- and deoxyribonucleic acid) which are transferred from one organism to another and eventually ingested by humans. It helps to take a good look at the mechanisms of genetically modified feed and food.

• Any food and any diet results in dietary intake of RNA and DNA in humans at between 0.1 and 1.0 grams per day. Any food containing cell mass, i.e. meat, pulses, but also microbes in fermented foods like cheese, yoghurt, beer, contain naturally occurring RNA and DNA. A GM-food brings no additional amounts into our organism.

- The high digestibility of dietary DNA makes the probability of transgene-transfer from plant to intestinal microflora extremely low and to mammalian organ cells at even lower.
- Despite digestion, not only endogenous plant DNA but also transgenes (from GMO) have been detected in ruminal duodenal digesta and tissues. But depending on tissue type, a plant cell may contain 500-50'000 copies of the chloroplast genome, in sharp contrast to a single copy of a transgene DNA in a nuclear genome. The probability of perfusion and detection of a transgene in the blood compared to a "natural" foreign-organism gene is therefore lower by a factor 500-50'000!! It is very likely, that similar results would be found in humans.

• Even after getting into our bloodstream a transgene would have to be incorporated in our own genome in order to cause any effect whatsoever. Simple retrieval of transgenes in animal tissues does not imply insertion in mammalian cells! Also the European Food Safety Agency EFSA concluded that there is no evidence that intact genes from plants can be transferred to and be expressed in mammalian cells.

• Furthermore, if we eat cattle and poultry fed by GMO, there would be a double "chain of barriers" compared to when we eat GMO plants directly.



HANDLE WITH CARE

• Transgenes are selectively chosen from compatible plants of at least related species (e.g. from cereal to cereal, pulse to pulse). One cannot simply put a cactus gene into a maize genome, even less a frog gene into a wheat genome.

Finally, we should take into consideration that the traditional way of cultivating and cross-breeding crops and animals has been totally uncontrolled and was basically random. On the other hand, gene technology allows the recombining of a single specific gene with clearly known properties with another genome, classic cross-breeding means the complete opposite with nothing but sheer hope on making the lucky punch for the outcome ones strives for. But nobody thinks of or talks about the enormous collateral damage possible or possibly has already taken place. Not only that caused by a successful and controlled new breed, but even more so from all the hundreds and thousands of "unsuccessful" genomes from "natural cross-breeding" released into nature! There are countless examples of traditionally cultivated plants, mostly ornamental ones, which were released and have superseded the wild flora, endangering a regional ecosystem. The agronomic and nutritional benefits of GM crops for feed or food outweigh any perceived risk of uptake or integration of transgenes. Particularly when correctly compared to traditional „natural“ cross-breeding.

IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member bios are posted under the following link: <http://www.imcz.com/Board.asp>. Go ahead and check them out!

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Three Dimensional Printers

Contributed by IMCZ honorary member Muthana Kubba

Most of us have heard of three dimensional printers, but not many had actually seen one or even imagine clearly what they are, what they do and how they work. Within the next ten years 3-D printers are expected to take centre stage in several disciplines. Specialised 3-D printers are used nowadays for the production of complicated, custom designed bones from bone-like materials, produce graphic models in three dimensions, etc.



3D-Printers are also referred to as “Personal Manufacturing Machines”, also called ‘Frabbers’. They are expected to change the way we live. They can produce jewellery, racing cars’ parts, complex machine components, and yes even toothbrushes. It is estimated that 20% of 3D Printers output is final products, rather than prototypes, and it might rise to 50% by 2020.

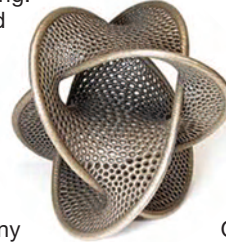
It is apt to quote here from a leader of the Economist, dated 20.02.2011: “Three-dimensional printing makes it as cheap to create single items as it is to produce thousands and thus undermines economies of scale. It may have as profound an impact on the world as the coming of the factory did.

Just as nobody could have predicted the impact of the [steam engine in 1750](#)—or the [printing press in 1450](#), or the [transistor in 1950](#)—it is impossible to foresee the long-term impact of 3D printing. But the technology is coming, and it is likely to disrupt every field it touches.”

How they work

3D printers deposit materials, layer by layer using an additive process. Basically they have a printing head which works with any material that can be extruded or squirted through a nozzle. They are called ‘printers’ because they do exactly what a printer does, namely deposit ink on a sheet of paper. Of course there are several ways and materials which can be used. Without going into great detail or depth, it is informative to list some of the more common technologies used:

- Molten polymer deposition. This is used mostly for rapid prototyping and uses a nozzle to deposit molten polymer, layer by layer.
- Granular material binding. This uses selective fusing of print media in a granular bed. The unfused media supports the structure until the printing is completed. It therefore does not require a supporting structure during the printing process.
- Photopolymerization. This can be compared with laser printers as opposed to ink jet ones. In this process an intensive beam of light is projected to a liquid polymer. The polymer hardens where light had fallen and the process is repeated until the complete model is built. The unexposed liquid polymer is then washed away.



As in cameras, the resolution is a 3D pixel. The third dimension of the pixel is its thickness. The actual resolution in practice varies with the type of printer and its purpose.

Applications

The range of possible applications is huge. Jumping the ‘economy of scale’ doctrine, is very promising since it reduces the investment needed to test a product before it is mass produced.

Other applications include prototyping, metal casting, architecture, healthcare, entertainment etc. Even palaeontology applications have found their way in replicating fossils, in archaeology in copying ancient and priceless artefacts and making exact replicas of them. Also in pathology in reconstructing bones and body parts are being made using special 3D printers. Studies are being made to use them in biotechnology for tissue engineering applications and body parts.

Incidentally, 3D scanning technology is used for replicating real objects without the need to make moulds first.

At present there are several companies vying to develop and put on the market an affordable 3D desktop printer. If and when such a product becomes available from ARP in Rotkreuz, then we can at last realise our dreams in real life. Make anything we can dream of, look at it, test it and marvel at the technology which made it possible.

Further reading: [3D Printers](#)

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Venice, Carnival and Istanbul...

Contributed by IMCZ member İlham Yüksel

The idea of going to Venice originated from a phone call from one of my wife's friends in Istanbul. She had decided to fly to Venice to see her friend and asked us to join them. We thought it was a good idea since it was time for the famous Venice Carnival. My wife took a half day off from her work on Friday and we took a ride to Venice by car. It took all of six hours to get there. We parked our car in the multi story car park just across the "Porte Della Libertà" bridge and met our friends Müge and Steve who were waiting for us right next to its entrance. The pleasant walk to their nearby house with our stuff reinforced the good impression of we already had.

Actually we were overwhelmed by the beauty and romantic atmosphere of Venice the minute we set foot on it. Our friend's house where we were staying was on the top floor of an old, historical apartment block. After dinner, we decided to join the crowds of the carnival which was in full swing there. In order to merge properly we decided to put on masks and wear wigs, which thanks to our resident friend were promptly provided. After a long and very loud march, we settled in for dinner at the 'Plazzo Pisani Morette' part of a classical palace complex erected in the second half of the fifteenth Century right on the bank of the Grand Canal and renovated during the mid eighteenth century. The dinner was organized by a club, which had members from all over the world. The complex is owned by the Pisani family: an old Venetian patrician family which came originally from Pisa. It played an important role in the historic, economic and political events of the Venetian Republic. The male line of the family ended at the end of the nineteenth century. It is famous for hosting some prominent figures : Tsar Paul of Russia, Josephine Bonaparte and Joseph II of Austria. The palace with its magnificent Gothic architecture and the outstanding interior decoration is one of the best works of the Venetian Artists.

Whilst we were enjoying a cocktail on the ground floor, guests kept on arriving by boat on the Grand Canal. They were all dressed in 19th century garments. Frankly, if we didn't have mobile phones, we could easily forget that we are in the 21st century because it felt so much like the 19th century then. Slowly we found our way to the upper floor. Impressive is not the right word to describe the hall we entered into. It was truly amazing and very charming at the same time. As might be discerned from the photo, the interior is breathtaking and had obviously belonged to a very wealthy family. We were told

that there are several other similar Palazzos in Venice, which indicated the very high level of prosperity and considerable wealth in this small city at the time.

Soon after the exceptionally delicious dinner with sea food and Italian style Tiramisu we decided to go back home. It was after midnight and we had not fully recovered from our six hour drive from Switzerland. However, for many the night was just about to begin. Next morning fresh and eager after a good breakfast, we decided to take a stroll in town and discover more about its secrets.

It turned out that its streets were incredibly crowded. It must have been the Carnival. There were even several policemen trying to keep the order and the flow of the crowds.

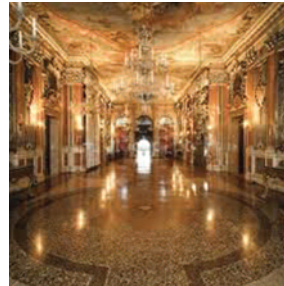
It was virtually impossible to walk and it took us almost half an hour to get to the Piazza San Marco (Centre of the city). From there we could marvel the architecture of several magnificent buildings, like Doge's Palace and Basilica San Marco.



The exterior view of the building from the Grand Canal

The exceptional architecture and magnificent buildings we saw, whetted our appetite to find out more about the history of this city and how it came about to be so wealthy. According to the archaeologists, the first human settlements date back to the 6th century when the inhabitants from the mainland came to this semi swampy area to escape the barbaric invasions which followed the fall of the Roman Empire. The new inhabitants built several rafts of various sizes, supported by strong wooden piles which were dug into the bed of the sea. The rafts were then connected to each other with wooden walkways and houses and monuments were built on them. In the 7th century Venice was annexed to Byzantine Empire but maintained its

independence. The city was ruled by an elected Doge. It was in the 11th century that Venice started to get richer and wealthier. As a small city state located on the sea they had



The interior view on the first floor of the Palazzo

only one way to make money, "trade". The city set up close trade connections with the Byzantine Empire, which was the most powerful empire until its collapse in the 15th century. After the 4th Crusade against the Islamic Kingdoms, Venice started to become one of the most important naval power in the Mediterranean Sea. It controlled almost every single island in the Aegean Sea and had made trade agreements

with other powers. At its peak it is estimated that Venice had a fleet of 3'300 ships manned more than 60.000 crew. However, with the rise of the Ottoman empire, it started to lose its hegemony in the Mediterranean Sea.. In the 16th century, the Ottomans almost controlled the whole trade routes in the Mediterranean Sea. Despite this, Venice was successful in maintaining its economic advantage due to the free trade agreements made with the Ottomans. In fact, Venice had managed to control a small territory in Istanbul, where they had enjoyed trade privileges by the Byzantine Empire. After losing its naval power, it was conquered and sacked by Napoleon in 1797. Napoleon handed it then over to Austria.

Aware of its varied and interesting history, we took a gondola ride and tasted some real Italian food as eaten by the locals, the pizza topped the list. The long opening hours of the shops and restaurants, and the relatively low prices, were in sharp contrast to Switzerland.

And where does Istanbul come in all this. Well, there were four horse bronze statues above the entrance of the Basilica San Marco. I knew about them before I came to Venice, hence I made a point to go and take a look at them. They have an interesting story, which I like to share with you. These statues were actually taken from the hippodrome square in Istanbul in the 13th century by the Crusaders who had entered and sacked the city then. Incidentally the statues on the entrance are replicas the original ones are preserved in the archaeological museum of Venice.

Venice, with its magnificent architecture, and rich history shaped by Arabic, Byzantine and Gothic influences, has a lot to offer. It is probably one of the most beautiful cities of the Medieval world. It also competes with best cities of the modern world. It is certainly worth a visit, but be warned if you decide to drive all the way there. Drive carefully; the Italians are not the known to be careful drivers.



The exterior view of the building from the Grand Canal

Aiding and Abetting by Muriel Spark

Contributed by ZIWC member Helena Lustenberger

Since 7 November 1974, Britons and others who let their thoughts wander have been wondering what became of Lord Lucan, who savagely murdered his children's nanny and nearly succeeded in murdering his wife. My own personal theory is that he is alive and well and haunts my local swimming pool, maniacally doing windmill backstrokes and mowing down all who come in his way. He seems to have it in for women in particular and I have bruises to prove it.

Muriel Spark has her own theory, which she has made the subject of her novel, *Aiding and Abetting*. The aiders and abettors who helped Lucan escape and who have supported him since are his 'friends' and peers. Should this seem rather implausible, one has only to think of all those Nazi war criminals who were able to flee to South America. Lucan is also aided by a look-alike, whom he uses as a stand-in and whose bank account is used for payments, as he does not have the giveaway Lucan name. However, this situation leads to an unhealthy mutual dependency and potential for blackmail.

The novel also has a female main character, Dr Hildegard Wolf, who has a past as a fake stigmatic (details of whose manifestation should not be read over breakfast) and who

has changed her name and set herself up as a psychiatrist in Paris. The two 'Lucans' both consult Hildegard and pay large sums of money to hear her talk about herself, her preferred method of treatment. Hildegard does not know which is the true Lucan and the reader is also left in doubt. The Lucans know about Hildegard's past as 'Beate' the fake stigmatic and use this information as a trade-off for mutual secret-keeping. There ensues a cat and mouse situation, in which the protagonists change roles frequently.

The interactions between these characters are both entertaining and shocking and provoked a discussion among members of the Reading Circle about the nature of crime. Which crime had the bigger impact on the rest of the world – an attempted double murder, which has apparently not been repeated, or a confidence trick involving the lives, feelings and hopes of hundreds of people? Hildegard maintains that 'Beate' performed miracles because people believed in her, even though she was a fake. In a similar way, her psychiatric patients keep coming to her, even though the reader sees no evidence that she has had the

necessary training and thus her doctorate is also a fake.

Meanwhile, the continuing existence of Lucan and his need for aiding and abetting further implicate those who help him. Both Lucan and Hildegard have accomplices; show great amounts of criminal energy and neither displays the slightest hint of remorse or morality.

The book also provoked a lively discussion on predestination versus free will, which remained unsolved as such questions usually are. Are people predestined to become criminal or do

they choose to do so? Lucan says he has sold his soul to the devil. Perhaps our next book should be Voltaire's 'Candide'?

There are some weaknesses in the plot, but on the whole the novel is extremely diverting, despite the lack of 'goodies' and I can recommend it to the reader who enjoys a bit of mystery with a quirky touch.



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How can you protect your wealth

Contributed by
IMCZ member
Marius Zimmermann

The financial crisis may lead to inflation

We are faced with a severe financial crisis mainly caused by the huge debts of the governments. There is almost no state that doesn't face severe problems. In situations where artificial currencies like the EURO lead to devaluations it is even worse because strong countries cannot do very much about it. Strong countries – or better said relatively strong countries (like Germany, Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Denmark, Finland) – need to push a lot of liquidity into the system (in order to save weaker countries like Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland). It is the “legalization” of the Ponzi scheme (take new money in order to pay back old debts and interests). Others like [Barnard Madoff](#) and [Dieter Behring](#) (A Swiss who defrauded customers to the tune of 1 billion Swiss Francs) went to jail for that.

It is difficult to break the vicious circle. In case Greece and later possibly other countries go bankrupt what would happen then to the Euro? Imagine Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal all going bankrupt. Obviously, a worldwide monetary crisis would invariably take place because all the banks and governments are interlinked. The Euro would not survive since it is a basket of all the original currencies of the member countries (including Drachma, Lira, Pesetas, Escudos). Theoretically it is possible the Euro would suddenly become worthless.

However, not only the Euro can cause major problems, the excessive expenditure of nearly all Euro-zone governments would sooner or later lead to disaster. Let us not forget that the flattening of the population pyramid due to longer life expectancies would force the states to make up the deficits in the pension funds.

In such situations the only way out is to print more paper money which automatically leads to inflation. Inflation is poison! The value or the buying power of all your hard earned savings decreases continuously with inflation. In fact, inflation has always been with us, it is simply a euphemism for devaluation of paper money. For example the US dollar lost 90% of its value between 1900 and 2000. Even in Switzerland, one Swiss Franc in 1971 would buy three times as much of what it does today, i.e. it lost 65% of its buying power over 40 years. In fact, even if the money in Swiss Francs were kept in a bank account, with the interest automatically added, it would not have kept its value or buying power.

One of the worst examples of inflation was the time between 1914 and 1923 in Germany. At the peak of this hyperinflation in November 1923 one US-Dollar was worth 4,3 trillion Mark! People lost all their financial reserves. Even people from the middle and upper class were faced with poverty. The reason for this

hyperinflation was the First World War. The costs for the war itself already caused inflation, but the treaties of Versailles worsened the situation. Germany was condemned for reparation payments to the allies which consequently lead to a tragic crisis and finally to the rise of the Nazi-regime.

What can be done?

Most of us tend to put some of our earnings aside. The Swiss are well known for saving substantial proportions of their income. Of course it is always a good idea to save money for a rainy day or for retirement, however, the question remains is in what form should we make the savings. Shall we keep our savings in a saving account or shall we buy some bonds?

If we were to avoid massive devaluation of our savings, then we need to find ways and means to beat the inevitable devaluation.

There are basically four ways how to do so:

- Real estate
- Stocks
- Raw material
- Precious metals

Real estate

It is definitely good to possess your own house/apartment. Usually the value increases and therefore one has got a good value for its money. Even if the house is partly financed by a mortgage it protects your value. The mortgage needs to be paid back at face value. Therefore inflation is positive if interest rate is protected. In Switzerland it is currently possible to close mortgages of up to 25 years (at around 2,4% p.a.). On the other hand a house is not very mobile and many people might not afford to buy their house or apartment.

Stocks

The stock markets are very volatile and it requires therefore strong nerves. Furthermore, not all stocks protect you in the same way against inflation. Only strong companies that can easily pass on price increases to its clients are protected. Therefore you need to follow a strategy of stock picking. Many people don't have the know-how to do so. Furthermore you will need a certain volume of savings in order to follow a necessary diversification strategy. Usually the pension funds do have some portion in stocks. Therefore every employee in Switzerland holds some portion of his savings in stocks.

In case of substantial economic crises the stock markets will also collapse. Then the stocks don't really help.

Raw materials

These are very difficult markets. Furthermore, many raw materials (e. g. wheat) might not be stored. Therefore only professionals may invest funds in raw materials (usually in futures).

Precious metals

Silver, platinum and gold are excellent means for protecting your wealth. You can already buy small bars or coins at reasonable prices. You can keep them at your home. Mainly gold is a respected mean of payment. Even if money loses its value or would be taken from the market you are able to buy food and other goods with gold. In the long run it keeps its relative purchasing power.



Gold is the best option

In a scenario where money loses its value and is no longer trusted by the people as a payment tool (as was the case in the ex Soviet Union) one needs to have other means of payment.

In a scenario where people lose trust in their government, paper money would also lose its value. The only currency that is accepted worldwide is gold (silver and platinum come as second and third best as well).

Advantages of gold:

- Gold is a safe payment tool.
- In the long term gold keeps its purchasing power (e. g. CHF 1 in gold invested in 1971 would have been worth CHF 8.27 in gold in 2011 and therefore the inflation is well covered).
- Gold has resisted economic crises, state bankruptcies and monetary reforms
- Gold is a shelter against inflation.
- Gold is profitable
- Gold must be part of every portfolio.
- There is no VAT on gold with a purity of 995/1000 (this doesn't apply for silver, platinum or diamonds, etc.)
- In Switzerland there is no tax on capital gains.

What factors influence the gold price?

The quantity of gold reserves worldwide is limited. It is estimated that all the gold of the world would fit into a cube of 8'000 m³ (20 m height, 20 m width, 20 m depth). There is an approximate annual demand for gold of 4'200 t (2300 t go into jewellery, 650 t for industry, 550 t in physical gold for investments, 400 t Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's), 300 t black market). The annual production, however, is only production of 2500t. Therefore 1700 tons of gold are missing annually. If all the gold investments would need physical gold, then its price explode. Most investments are not covered by physical gold. Therefore, one should invest in physical gold.

Most analysts agree that the price of gold shall increase in the long-term. The reasons are:

- Demand exceeds supply.
- In the long term there will be no gold left in the mines.
- More gold is sold than available physical gold.
- New price drivers come from the Asian markets
- Increasing demand from private investors (mainly for physical gold)

- Insecurity on the financial market
- Gold is not depending on any national money policy
- The Islamic countries might reintroduce gold as a payment standard.

Conclusion

If you want to have a good shelter against inflation and/or breakdown of governments you need to invest in other vehicles than paper money. The best way to do so is physical gold,

which you can always use to buy goods even if the whole markets collapse.

It is important to have some physical gold – pure ETF's or gold accounts don't help because it might be that the issuing bank collapses too.

Marius Zimmermann, 1960, MBA IMD, Betriebsökonom FH, board member of Noricom Suisse AG, provider of gold investments.

Ethics for a new Economy – a Dream?

Contributed by IMCZ member Urs Zimmermann

More and more people realise, that “we can't continue like this“. Many do stand up and announce their frustration and dissatisfaction. However, most of us feel powerless and fearful, and therefore, remain on trampled paths, instead – as Mahatma Gandhi frequently reminded us to be still, observant and reflecting.



With this statement in mind, I prefer not to argue about the rights and wrongs of the world's economic and monetary systems, much more I would like to reflect – in Gandhi's sense – and invite ideas and impulses on how a new economy may look like, or better still what kind of economy dare I dream of.

First, let's talk about money: The initial idea of money was to facilitate the exchange of goods and services, based on human needs, so that all of us could prosper and live in abundance and ease. Meanwhile, however, we have forgotten that it is us, who have created Money and its spirit. In principle, money is neutral and it is us who project our thinking patterns, values and the resulting system ramifications on it and thus it accordingly does its' assigned duty.

In my dream however, I observe how all of a sudden, we start to respect and love money. Money is not unlike everything else in this world, it craves to be loved and appreciated like everyone else. In my experience the disruption of the money flow is due to the fact that we have deprived it of love. Of course the widespread “rip-off“ and greed mentality lies at the root of why we think of money as bad and dirty – and thus unconsciously we project our perception of its scarcity instead of its abundance. In my perception, once we are clear about the spirit behind money namely serving others, then we can modify our attitude in an entirely new way: bestow love and gratitude on it instead of fear and hate.

As my dream unveils, corporations would appreciate the daily efforts its human resources make, and slowly begin to

appreciate the great contributions its employees make towards the evolution and growth of the corporation. Managers should become fully aware of their performance and thus become genuinely thankful and appreciative.

At the same time, I observe in my dream, how employees discover that their “work“ is a gift and that the money paid by the company is simply an expression of gratitude. I see further how they are grateful for the money they receive – they feel abundance rather than scarcity – and speak positively and passionately about their employer. I envision how everyone contributes with joy, excitement and engagement for the benefit of the whole. How everything – as in nature – prospers with ease and how mutual cooperation – instead of competition – becomes widespread.

Further, I perceive how employees begin to appreciate each other, make use of every opportunity to compliment one another – do favours, act in an uplifting and encouraging manner. Overjoyed, I perceive how innovation sweeps with employees suddenly inventing new products and services, which are absolutely unique, show a personal touch – a distinct handwriting – far from the boring, soulless sameness and more of what we already know. Realising, that being different is both the meaning of life and a wonderful expression of variety.

In my dream I saw how humanity had completely abandoned financial speculation. Somehow it realised that speculation is powered by greed and as a result only a few of us can “profit“ from it. It dawned on me that interest payments do not just maximise income or increase assets, they help towards a better distribution of wealth, people of low income benefit, talented individuals

are sponsored, job programs for the youth are initiated, investments are made in sustainable energy generation and project serving humanity on every level around the world become a new reality. Thus the need of the masses shall always be our priority.

I can clearly perceive how both, giving and taking, can induce gratitude and satisfaction as long as they stay in equilibrium. And when they do, love of money would be re-established. Money serves all of us, instead of only the privileged few. Money should serve us not the other way round.

Once the impression of abundance is established, generosity would grow and spread. The motto, “Gratitude is the gate to Abundance“ should be printed on every banknote which would induce us to recognise the ‘spiritual intelligence of money. There shall then be a completely new perspective of what ‘work‘ is. Gandhi's well known statement; “We are the change we want to see in the world“ is indeed very relevant in this context. In this sense have a Happy 2012!

Urs D. Zimmermann, is owner of Inside Out Co, Switzerland



From the SLOPES...

Contributed by IMCZ member and sport editor Joseph Dow

Evolution to the Modern Ski Outfit

Besides skis themselves, nothing symbolizes the sport of skiing like the ski jacket. Modern ski outfits boast bold colors, racy stripes, cool patterns, and striking silhouettes. They exude speed and precision when worn by skiers from World Cup racers like Didier Cuche and Bode Miller to pretty girls and little tykes on the bunny hill. But, it wasn't always this way ...

I came on the skiing scene in the late 70s, so even though I don't remember the itchy, smelly wool of the early days of the sport, I do recall that the clothing we wore was not very comfortable or warm and the styling left much to be desired. Jackets were made of a basic nylon, which was not particularly waterproof or tear and stain resistant and were either bulky or stiff and thin. I wore a puffy, almost inflated, down jacket and some boxy, red bib overall ski pants.

My dream ski outfit was a thick Demetre Roffe wool padded racing sweater, worn as an outer layer, and some stretch pants like the Mahre twins wore. I never could afford the Demetre, but I did find a clearance pair of mint green Spyder stretch pants, which went well with my red and beige HEAD jacket. One major observation I made about these pants was how tight and restricting they were for so-called "stretch" pants and man, were they heavy! Hey, it was good stuff at the time and color coordination was way overrated according to the serious skier. No, I don't have a picture. I made sure of that! So, don't even ask.

To stay warm in the frigid, damp New Hampshire climate, I layered up with various cotton turtlenecks, long underwear and wool sweaters. Unfortunately, you had about thirty seconds to hit the door of the lodge after donning the outfit before you started to sweat profusely. Sitting in moist clothing on a stalled, fixed double chair with an icy wind blowing was enough to send you right back to the lodge for a hot chocolate.

In the early 90s, things started to improve a bit. To address the problems with the earlier styles and reduce the restricting nature of ski garments, some designers, such as Degre7 of France, developed clothes with a relaxed fit and incorporated synthetic fleece insulation into their designs. These outfits were loose-fitting and gave the sensation of skiing in your

pajamas. Their advanced polyester fabrics developed by DuPont had greatly improved breathability and moisture management. Despite the better comfort, these outfits were bulky and hardly sexy and sleek. We won't talk about the ridiculous one-piece suits, which only seemed suitable if you were planning an expedition with Mike Wiegele Heli-ski to the Bugaboos.

Later on, there was a departure from the traditional insulated ski jacket. Gore-tex fabric, a space-aged material that is actually "waterproof," began to appear in a few pieces. Unfortunately, it was usually laminated to the outer fabric, making it stiff and noisy, and was incredibly expensive. These "hardshell" jackets came from the mountaineering community and were serious tools for athletes exerting a lot of energy and generating heat. However, they lacked any insulation and offered no warmth. You'd need to layer multiple insulating pieces to make these garments at all suitable for lift-served skiing, where you spend a lot of static time sitting up in the wind on the chairlift. "Softshell" jackets soon followed and increased ease of motion and reduced noise with stretch fabrics but again, they are not warm enough for resort skiing during the colder months.

For me, I still think the gold standard is an insulated ski jacket and pant combined with a base and mid layer, especially for lift-served resort skiing. Today, the modern ski jacket is a high-tech piece of ski equipment as sophisticated as my AK Pro Elastak skis or POC Skull Comp helmet. When it comes to my favorite activity, you guys know I will spare no expense to get the best available (well, within reason ... I still haven't laid out the 6'900 CHF for those Zai Spada buola 174 skis I demoed on the IMCZ St. Moritz trip.) So, here is my recommendation...



Of all the skiwear brands I've seen and worn, lately, none compares to the local Rotkreuz brand, **Mountain Force**. This is my personal choice, and I own a couple of fantastic pieces. After almost two seasons wearing this brand, I can say it is the best skiwear you can get! Mountain Force strives to provide the ski enthusiast with an outfit that makes a fashion statement with a tailored fit, while at the same time Swiss engineered and precision manufactured for the highest function possible. It's quite a neat



trick and they pull it off, masterfully. The first thing you notice when you slip on a Mountain Force outfit is how lightweight, non-restricting and supple it is.

You may have read my prior interview, in the *IMCZ March 2011 newsletter*, with CEO and owner of the company, Roman Stepek, who has a connection to our clubs. Recently, I went back to pester Roman for some insights about what makes a great, modern ski outfit and why his Mountain Force offerings are so distinct.

Mountain Force has many advanced qualities and features, some of which are actually listed with icons printed on the interior of their jackets:

- WP** Waterproof to withstand a water column of 20 000 mm
- CM** Ceramic Membrane is highly breathable, waterproof, elastic and heat-reflecting
- MM** Moisture Management, higher-than-average vapour permeability
- FX** Fullflex System, 4-way Multistretch, unlimited freedom of movement
- LC** Lightweight Comfort, proprietary fabrics and production concepts, light as a feather
- DW** Natural Goose Down, the warmest insulation material
- SW** Ultrasonic Seam Welding, processing technology guarantees full breathability and unrestricted elasticity

Some of these attributes are unique to Mountain Force, which actually uses proprietary fabrics sourced from a specialized





textile company in Japan, unlike other brands, which use fabrics available to many companies. Only Mountain Force has full 4-way stretch from inside to outside in all three layers of the outfit: the outer shell, the insulation, and the inner lining material. Wow, does that make a difference!

Goose down is still the most effective insulation and has been traditionally used in skiwear. But, when down gets wet, it loses its loft and effectiveness. Baffles were also needed to keep the down from settling, but the stitching allowed the cold to penetrate. That was the past. Mountain Force's materials and construction techniques have overcome the weaknesses and difficulties of using down. In their *Down Allover Jacket*, the down is encapsulated and structured in a waterproof, stretchy material with welded compartments. Without the perforation from stitching, the loft is maintained with even down distribution eliminating the loose, floppy material.



Ski pants are a particular specialty of Mountain Force and they have been recognized and highlighted by magazines in articles reviewing cutting-edge skiwear and equipment. With the pants, anatomy has been painstakingly considered to provide the optimal fit. Previously, brands attempted to achieve this through articulated knees, but this left loose material when the joint was not bent. Mountain Force's advanced materials with 4-way multi-stretch are the key to achieving their superior comfort and ease of motion.

As expected, Mountain Force outfits also have the full array of special features available on high-end ski wear like waterproof zippers and garages, detachable hoods and internal powder skirts, inner sleeve cuffs and conveniences like a tethered goggle cloth, dedicated pockets (for magnetic ski pass on the sleeve, goggles, sunglasses, mobile phones/mp3, etc.), and cable routing guides and outlets (for MP3 players.)



I cannot recommend this brand more highly and if you are a serious skier, who refuses to compromise on quality, I suggest you check out [Mountain Force!](#)

Next Month:

I will review the Glarner ski resort of Braunwald (pronounced Bruwald, of course!)



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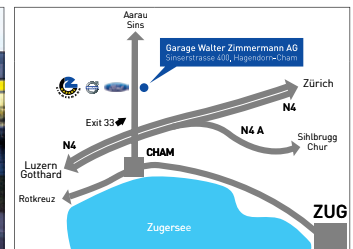
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From the LANES... Bowling

Contributed by IMCZ Member Steve Butterworth

Now because Robert Bleser graciously declined the wine, I came home with a bottle for myself as second and one of our new comers Arnould Volker came second for the other bottle.

We had no less than three new Dutch bowlers, Arnould Volker, Joep Van Etten and Richard Leijten. All very keen on bowling and looks like being hot competition.

As you see from the scores very close and an incredible number of strikes and spares.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

| First Name | Surname | Game1 | Game2 | Game3 | Handicapped | Bowled_total | STRIKES | SPARES |
|------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| Robert | Bleser | 201 | 152 | 226 | 648 | 579 | 12 | 14 |
| Stephen | Butterworth | 116 | 118 | 185 | 605 | 419 | 9 | 6 |
| Arnoud | Volker | 101 | 105 | 127 | 594 | 333 | 7 | 5 |
| Janice | Meier | 158 | 119 | 110 | 573 | 387 | 8 | 6 |
| Richard | Leijten | 157 | 109 | 128 | 562 | 394 | 6 | 8 |
| Otto | Steuri | 127 | 163 | 139 | 555 | 429 | 8 | 9 |
| Rolf | Ekman | 93 | 116 | 79 | 555 | 288 | 4 | 3 |
| Joep | Van Etten | 85 | 88 | 91 | 534 | 264 | 5 | 2 |
| Marianne | Elemessaar | 65 | 81 | 60 | 533 | 206 | | 3 |
| Jack | Sami | 112 | 92 | 98 | 530 | 302 | 3 | 4 |
| Hans-Peter | Schobert | 118 | 114 | 97 | 530 | 329 | 5 | 4 |



Irish Jokes

A married Irishman went into the confessional and said to his priest, 'I almost had an affair with another woman.' The priest said, 'What do you mean, almost?' The Irishman said, 'Well, we got undressed and rubbed together, but then I stopped.'

The priest said, 'Rubbing is the same as putting it in. You're not to see that woman again. For your penance, say five Hail Marys and put \$50 in the poor box.' The Irishman left the confessional, said his prayers, and then walked over to the poor box. He paused for a moment and then started to leave. The priest, who was watching, quickly ran over to him saying, 'I saw that. You didn't put any money in the poor box!' The Irishman replied, 'Yeah, but I rubbed the \$50 on the box, and according to you, that's the same as putting it in!'

There once was a religious young woman who went to Confession. Upon entering the confessional, she said, 'Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned.' The priest said, 'Confess your sins and be forgiven.'

The young woman said, 'Last night my boyfriend made mad passionate love to me seven times.' The priest thought long and hard and then said, 'Squeeze seven lemons into a glass and then drink the juice.' The young woman asked, 'Will this cleanse me of my sins?' The priest said, 'No, but it will wipe that smile off of your face.'

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and asks the first man he meets, 'Do you want to go to heaven?' The man said, 'I do, Father.' The priest said, 'Then stand over there against the wall.' Then the priest asked the second man, 'Do you want to go to heaven?' 'Certainly, Father,' the man replied. 'Then stand over there against the wall,' said the priest. Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and asked, 'Do you want to go to heaven?' O'Toole said, 'No, I don't Father.' The priest said, 'I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?' O'Toole said, 'Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now.'



by IMCZ member David Harris

All web sites included in this series are offered in an unbiased way and do not always reflect my personal views; the reasons for bringing them to your attention are that I found them interesting, perhaps offering another point of view and definitely worthy of note.

CIRCLE CYCLE POWER PLANT www.circlecycleice.com

The intention of the Circle Cycle (CC) inventors was to improve the efficiency of the Otto Cycle internal combustion four-cycle engine, invented in 1861 by Nikolus Agust Otto. The Circle Cycle engine design changes some of the basic mechanical principles of the Otto Cycle engine. Instead of a reciprocating motion, the CC design employs an orbital motion (the pistons do not reciprocate). The CC engine has no engine block, no crankshaft or associated connecting rods, no separate flywheel, no intake or exhaust valves and their supporting machinery, no water pump, radiator and the supporting hardware.

TRANSPORT MUSEUM LUZERN www.verkehrshaus.ch

Technical achievements enable us to be mobile and shape our lives. It is only the mental agility of tinkerers, inventors and explorers that has made people as mobile as they are today. The fascinating history of transport and its vehicles together with their socio-political effects on our culture are the key themes of the Swiss Museum of Transport. More than 3000 objects displayed in an area exceeding 20,000 m² are witnesses to a moving history in the most literal sense and point to future challenges in the field of transport and mobility.

CATECAR www.catecar.ch

A Swiss City car. Catecar aims at integrating into its vehicles many Swiss inventions developed by prestigious Universities and Research centers. In particular, its first vehicle will use a aluminium honeycomb frame, an electric motor using very few batteries (35 kg), a range extender doing 100 km per 1 liter (US: 235 mpg; UK: 282 mpg) to charge the batteries and a high-performance solar roof.



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OBITUARY

With regret the IMCZ announces the death of one of its prominent members. Professor Jean Thoma PhD passed away peacefully in Zug. He was 84 years old and a long standing member of the club. Jean was a professor of mechanical engineering and had spent several years at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. He has also written eight books and numerous publications. His speciality has been the technology of hydrostatic transmissions. Our deep condolences to his wife Maria and his two daughters.



PUZZLES • IMCZNEWS

Sudoku

This month's puzzle is quite straight forward, and I look forward to receiving many replies. The winner shall be drawn from the pool of correct solutions received. His drinks during the next Stammtisch he attends shall be on the house. There were many correct solutions to the February Sudoku. According to the hat, the winner is Holger Infeldt. Congratulations Holger, your drinks during the next Stammtisch you attend are on the house.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | | | 7 | | | | |
| 4 | 9 | | | 1 | | 2 | | |
| | | 6 | | | | 5 | 7 | |
| | | | | 5 | 8 | | | |
| 8 | 2 | | 1 | | 7 | | 4 | 6 |
| | | | 4 | 2 | | | | |
| | 8 | 2 | | | | 1 | | |
| | | 9 | | 3 | | | 5 | 2 |
| | | | | 4 | | | 9 | |

Solution February 2012 Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 |

The easiest form, in which the solution is sent, is nine rows of nine numbers in a Word document, Excel or email. In every Sudoku, every digit between 1 and 9 occurs exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 square. Please send your answers to muthana@trasco.ch, on or before the last day of the current month.



TIDBITS • IMCZNEWS

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